(b) The Haj Committee Act 2002 will be notified for implementation after the Rules have been framed under Clause 44 of the Act.

Seminar on Kashmir

949. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a seminar on Kashmir is sought to be organised under the aegis of the United Nations Security Council;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have communicated its viewpoint with regard to this indirect attempt to internationalize the Kashmir issue; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) The facts in this regard are that Mexico had attempted to arrange an informal briefing for Security Council members by NGOs and academics on India-Pakistan tensions. This initiative was not a meeting of the Security Council itself. However, even this informal briefing did not take place.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. India has conveyed bilaterally to all countries which are in the Security Council and many others that the tensions between India and Pakistan are a direct result of Pakistan's support to cross-border terrorism. Pakistan must put a permanent end to such support and also dismantle the terrorist infrastructure. The permanent members of the Security Council and most other countries have understood our point of view.

Lifting overflight ban imposed on Pakistan

950. SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA:
SHRIMATI SHABANA AZMI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have lifted overflight ban imposed on Pakistani aircraft and called back battle ships following an assurance from U.S. that Pakistani President was serious about checking infiltration of militants into Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) if so, what reciprocal action Pakistan Government took in this regard;

(c) whether Government are aware that as reported in an interview to the Washington Post, President Musharraf has stated that he had not promised to shut down terrorist camps in POK; and

(d) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) Pakistan President General Musharraf had committed on May 27 and June 6 to end cross-border infiltration and on a permanent basis. On June 10, in recognition of this commitment, Government of India had announced the removal of restrictions on over-flights by Pakistani aircraft that had been in place since January 2002, following the attack on our Parliament. Pakistan has not taken any subsequent steps on the matter.

(c) On June 22, 2002 Pakistan President General Musharraf, during his interview to the Newsweek, tried to backtrack on his commitment to stop cross border infiltration on a permanent basis. He claimed that he gave no assurance that 'for years nothing will happen' across the LoC or that he made any commitment on closing the terrorist camps. This was rebutted, including by both US and UK.

(d) Government are firmly resolved to continue taking all necessary measures to defeat Pakistan's sponsorship of cross border terrorism in India.

Unsettled issues between India and Bangladesh

951. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the issues pending settlement between India and Bangladesh; and

(b) what steps have been taken for early settlement of pending issues to ensure improvement in the relationship between the two neighbourly countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) A stretch of boundary of 6.5 kms. length with Bangladesh is pending demarcation as also exchange